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# Ard Ghel

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**Ard Ghel** (Elder Speech for **Great Glacier**) [1] is the world's northern polar ice cap.

| Ard Ghel | |
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| **Information** | |
| **Variation(s)** | Great Glacier |
| **Type** | Ice sheet[W] |
| **Location** | Around the North Pole |
| **Appearance(s)** | |
| **Books** | *The Tower of the Swallow* (mentioned)<br>*The Lady of the Lake* (mentioned) |
| **Other** | *Wiedźmin: Gra Wyobraźni* (mentioned)<br>*The Witcher Thursdays* |

## Overview

Both polar ice caps of the planet cover larger surface than those of Old Earth.[2] Ard Ghel surrounds the North Pole and borders Far North's tundras and northernmost mountain chains in the south; venturing from the Pole into another direction would perhaps lead one into foreign lands unknown to the Nordlings, albeit even the Aen Ghele who inhabit the Glacier do not tend to travel that far.

The ice sheet is up to three miles thick in its maximum. It is not static -- due to the ongoing glaciation, some of its streams[W] advance southwards as fast as half a mile per year.[1] According to research conducted independently by both Avallac'h and Nimue verch Wledyr ap Gwyn, the entire civilization of the northern hemisphere is eventually doomed to extinction, covered beneath the spreading glacier over 3,000 years in the future.[3][4]

> The following is based on *The Witcher Thursdays* and may contradict Andrzej Sapkowski's works or R. Talsorian Games' official *The Witcher Role-Playing Game* line.

Ard Ghel is primarily a frigid wasteland, only sparsely dotted with occasional nunataks[W] and crevasses[W] within the ice. Even the ice giants fear to venture into the heart of the glacier, preferring to keep solid ground beneath their feet; the undisputed rulers here are the white dragons, whose frost breath makes the heaviest snows of Yamurlak seem like a warm blanket in comparison. They hunt animals and snow monsters on the glacier and in the surrounding mountains

and the tundram yet they do not hesitate to prey upon the supplies stockpiled by the Aen Ghele (or upon the Aen Ghele themselves).

Underneath this snowy dome, one can find a web of glacier caves[W] that surround heat-giving geysers and volcanoes, water reservoirs[W] with a thriving biosphere, and deposits of rare metals and gemstones rivaling in size those of Kovir and Poviss.[1]

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End of *The Witcher Thursdays* content.

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## Notes

- The name Ard Ghel first appears in the *Aen Ghele* resource for *The Witcher Thursdays*, albeit the ice caps are already mentioned without name in the novels and *Wiedźmin: Gra Wyobraźni*.

## References

1. ↑ [1.0] [1.1] [1.2] *The Witcher Thursdays*: *Aen Ghele*
2. ↑ *Wiedźmin: Gra Wyobraźni*
3. ↑ *The Tower of the Swallow*
4. ↑ *The Lady of the Lake*

| Countries and regions in *The Witcher* | |
|---|---|
| **Northern Kingdoms** | Aedirn (Dol Blathanna • Lower Aedirn • Upper Aedirn) • Brokilon • Cidaris (Bremervoord) • Cintra (Attre • Erlenwald • Strept) • Hengfors League (Barefield • Caingorn • Carnedd • Creyden • Crinfrid • Hengfors • Malleore • Tammerfors) • Kaedwen (Lakeland March • Lower March • Upper March • Western March • Hertch • Vespaden) • Kovir and Poviss (Creyden • Kovir • Narok • Poviss • Talgar • Velhad) • Lyria and Rivia (Lyria • Rivia) • Redania (Arcsea • Gelibol • Novigrad • Riverside • Yamurlak) • Skellige (An Skellig • Ard Skellig • Faroe • Hindarsfjall • Spikeroog • Undvik) • Temeria (Angren • Brugge • Ellander • Mahakam • Maribor • Pontaria • Sodden • Transriver • Velen) • Free Realm of Upper Aedirn • Verden |
| | Cintra (Attre • Erlenwald • Strept) • Daerlan • Ebbing (Neveugen • |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Nilfgaardian Empire** | Salm • Venendal) • Etolia • Gemmera • Geso • Lower Alba • Mag Turga (Sudduth) • Magne • Metinna (Metinna • Maecht • Mag Deira) • Nazair • Rowan • Ruach • Slopes • Toussaint • Vicovaro • Winneburg • Ymlac |
| **Eastern Lands** | Hakland • Korath desert • Wastelands • Zerrikania |
| **Far South** | Barsa • Hannu • Melukka • Ofir • Zangvebar |
| **Western Continent** | Eastern Coast (Fabiola • Silk Islands) |
| **Former Regions** | Emblonia • Kerack • Upper Sodden • Lower Sodden |

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